

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Response to Office Action of 08/09/2006
Page 7 of 10

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for Fig. 3 to add a reference number, 150, for the elastic resin.

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Response to Office Action of 08/09/2006
Page 8 of 10

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-18 are pending in this application, with Claim 3 being withdrawn. The specification, Claims 1, 7, and 9 and Fig. 3 have been amended and new Claims 10-18 have been added in the foregoing amendment.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings alleging that the elastic resin laminated on the inner surface of the cylindrical portion must be shown. The attached replacement sheet for Fig. 3 adds reference number 150 illustrating the elastic resin. The foregoing amendment to the specification amends the specification to include reference number 150.

The Claimed Invention Is Not Anticipated by Fujii

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 as anticipated by JP 2003 335175 ("Fujii"). In particular, the Examiner cited Figure 1 of Fujii. Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of original Claim 4 that "the cylindrical portion is rotatable relative to the shaft in such a manner as to be in contact with the shaft." The Examiner failed to provide a citation to Fujii, other than a general reference to Fig. 1, that describes that the cylindrical portion is rotatable relative to the shaft in such a manner as to be in contact with the shaft. Although Fig. 1 seems to illustrate that the cylindrical portion 29 contacts the shaft 2, the Examiner has failed to provide a citation that indicates that the cylindrical portion rotates in such a manner as to be in contact with the shaft. It is submitted that the rejection of Claim 1 is improper and that Claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Fujii.

Claim 2 recites "wherein the tip of the cylindrical portion is inclined toward the shaft in a free state." The Examiner alleged that Figure 1 of Fujii describes "the tip of the cylindrical portion includes a portion which is inclined toward the shaft." However, the Examiner failed to provide a citation to Fujii that describes that the cylindrical portion is inclined toward the shaft in a free state. The undersigned understands that paragraph [0027] of Fujii describes that the body case 71 of the electric motor is inclined relative to the output

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Response to Office Action of 08/09/2006
Page 9 of 10

shaft 73 of the electric motor 7. However, this section is not directed to the cylindrical portion 29. It is submitted that the rejection of Claim 2 is improper and that Claim 2 is patentable over Fujii.

Claim 7 recites "wherein the cylindrical portion and the end portion cover form substantially an L-shape in cross section." The Examiner alleged that the cylindrical portion (29) and the end portion cover form substantially an L-shape in cross section. Fujii actually describes a T-shape in cross section that is rotated 90 degrees. Thus, Fujii does not disclose the invention of Claim 7.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 10-14 depend from Claim 7. The dependent claims are patentable over Fujii for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

Claims 9 and 15-18

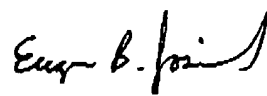
The Examiner objected to Claim 9, but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The foregoing amendment amends Claim 9 to be independent. Claims 15-18 depend from Claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 9.

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/529,809
Response to Office Action of 08/09/2006
Page 10 of 10

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Eugene B. Joswick III
Reg. No. 50,917

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
Telephone: (404) 815-6500
Facsimile: (404) 815-6555
Our Docket: 44471/314245